[26th November 1948

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce the following message which I have received from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

' In accordance with Rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules I transmit a copy of the Madras Hindu Bigamous Marriages Prohibition and Divorce Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly on the 10th September 1948 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.' "

NON-OFFICIAL BILL.

III.—THE MADRAS HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES (PREVENTION AND DIVORCE) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL No. 6 OF 1947).

SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

' *that the Madras Hindu Bigamous Marriages (Prevention and Divorce) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly be taken into consideration.*'

" Before I deal with the principles of this Bill, Sir, I would like to thank the Hon. the Leader of the House for having converted this official day into a non-official day and for having given us an opportunity to discuss the provisions of this Bill as early as possible.

" I would now like to mention in short the history of the Bill. This Bill was sponsored by Sri A. Kaleswara Rao, a member of the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was given notice of in December 1946 and the Congress Party decided to refer it to public opinion. In March 1947 it was referred for public opinion for two months. Public opinion was strongly in its favour. Then in October 1947 it was referred to a Select Committee presided over by Dr. Subbarayan, the then Law Minister of the Government of Madras."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Had it no history in 1937 and 1938? "

SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I do not know anything, Sir. This is so far as Mr. Kaleswara Rao has given me the particulars. The previous Law Minister, Mr. Bhashyam, was also a Member of the Select Committee. In February 1948 the Select Committee approved the Bill with certain modifications. It reduced the court fee from Rs. 50 to Rs. 10 and there were a few verbal alterations which were accepted by the Member in charge of the Bill. The Bill as passed by the Assembly has come up before this Council for discussion.

" I submit, Sir, that the main principles of this Bill are two and they are the provisions for the prohibition of bigamous marriages and the provisions for divorce. Before I deal with these two principles, Sir, I would like to explain the present position of Hindu